

Claim 14, line 1, delete "any preceding claim",

insert --claim 1--;

Claim 15, lines 1-2, delete "any of claims 1 and 3 - 14",

insert --claim 1--.

#### REMARKS

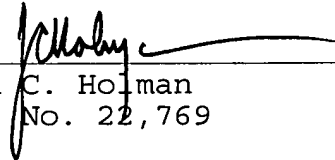
The foregoing Preliminary Amendment is requested in order to delete the multiple dependent claims and avoid paying the multiple dependent claims fee.

Early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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JCH:crj